

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendment above and the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Claims 44, 46-47, 55 and 58 have been canceled in this paper. Claims 45 and 48-52 have been amended in this paper. New claims 59-64 have been added in this paper. Therefore, claims 45, 48-54, 56-57 and 59-64 are pending and are under active consideration.

Claims 53, 54, 56 and 57 have been allowed.

Claims 44-52 and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) “as being anticipated by Seko (4178218).”

Insofar as the subject rejection relates to claims 44, 46-47 and 55, the rejection is moot in view of Applicants’ cancellation herein of these claims. Insofar as the subject rejection relates to claims 45 and 48-52, Applicants note that claims 45 and 48-52 have been amended herein so that they now depend from claim 53, instead of claim 44. Claim 53 has been allowed. Therefore, claims 45 and 48-52 are allowable based at least on their respective dependencies from claim 53.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the subject rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 44-52, 55 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) “as being anticipated by Ohno et al (6025457).”

Insofar as the subject rejection relates to claims 44, 46-47, 55 and 58, the rejection is moot in view of Applicants’ cancellation herein of these claims. Insofar as the subject rejection relates to claims 45 and 48-52, Applicants note that, as mentioned above, claims 45 and 48-52 have been amended herein so that they now depend from claim 53, instead of claim 44. Claim 53 has been

allowed. Therefore, claims 45 and 48-52 are allowable based at least on their respective dependencies from claim 53.

New claims 59-64 have been added in this paper. No new matter is added by these claims. These claims depend from allowed claim 56 and, therefore, are allowable based at least on their respective dependencies from claim 56.

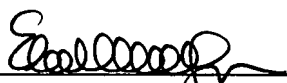
In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is

required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

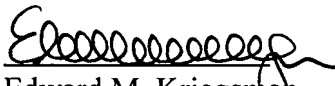
Respectfully submitted,

Kriegsman & Kriegsman

By: 
Edward M. Kriegsman
Reg. No. 33,529
30 Turnpike Road, Suite 9
Southborough, MA 01772
(508) 481-3500

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 21, 2007.


Edward M. Kriegsman
Reg. No. 33,529
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